

MEMO

To: Stuart
From: Marshall
Date: 05/05
Re: RS Interview on WVCH, 04/05
Speak Up Philadelphia, Host: Bill Devlin

Comments:

The first portion of the interview is difficult to hear. RS's phone fades in and out, allowing the viewer to hear only a few phrases from each sentence.

After a couple of minutes, it cleared up. The following is a transcript of the intelligible interview:

Interviewer: Speak to listeners who are committed to 'pro-family policies'. "Speak to the families that are listening, the ah the Moms that are home with their children here this afternoon, the housewives, ah, speak to them a little bit about what you would have to offer them as a Senator."

RS: "Well, I think, if you look at my voting record, we've been very solidly in, number 1, in support of ah families. Ah, I have a hundred percent pro-life voting record in the Congress, and will (unintelligible; continue?) that as long as I'm in Congress, and ah I have been very strong in, in programs that ah that reall-, really get back to some of the ah, what, what, the sound, moral programs that I think are important. For example, I've been a very strong advocate of abstinence-based education, one of the-. Ah, I've been actually the leader in Congress on a program called Title 20, which is a program devoted -- the only federal program that's out there that actually funds ah agencies, ah private agencies ah that go out and teach abstinence-based education, and ah in fact, I carried the ball and made sure that that was refunded again last year. Ah, so we've been very active in ah, in, in supporting families on those social issues and also on economic issues. I've been a leading advocate of a, ah, of a 500 dollar child tax credit, of ah, for, for each ah child dependent that you have in the home, so we can let families keep ah the money they earn instead of turning it over to the federal government, ah so we aren't forcing a lots ah, a lot of ah, ah of Moms out of the house to, to work -- ah if they wanna work, that's fine -- but we shouldn't be forcing them out because of tax policy that robs them of all the money ah that, that's being earned by the, by the wage-earner in the family."

Interviewer: "... tell us and tell our listeners where is that legislation right now and what can we do to promote it?"

RS: "...We had a vote on that not too long ago in the House of Representatives. Ah, John Kasich ah authored a budget, the Republican budget which ah, ah I was ah very instrumental in helping him put together. Ah he offered a budget which reduced the deficit an additional 150 billion dollars more than what ah the Clinton spending cuts will do, and in addition providing 500

billion, 500 dollar tax credit ah for working families. Unfortunately, it lost. It got ah -- about 90 percent of the Republicans voted for it, and, and about ah half a dozen or so Democrats voted for it, but it, it was defeated on pretty much a straight party line vote. Ah, we're gonna have an opportunity to continue to fight this battle, because there's a lot of us who believe ah that we have to cut federal spending and cut out a lot of these programs that are supposed to help the family ah that spend a lot of money ... (fades out for a second, then back in) ... to ah to frankly not do anything to help families unless ... (fades out again)"

Interviewer talks about Title 20 (abstinence-based education), comparing it to Title 10 (contraceptive/sex education). Attacks Sens. Kennedy, Boxer, Feinstein and Rep. Schroeder for gutting funding for Title 20.

RS interrupts: "Yeah, you're absolutely right. In fact, ah, ah, it was a-, it was actually the fall of 1993 where they, they basically gutted the funding mechanism and, and ah and turned it into another condom distribution program which we, ah y'know which we're very upset about, and are, and when the Appropriation bill comes up again, we're gonna try to get that money ah back to where it should be, should be spent, and, and I can tell you just last year when I fought this battle, y'know sometimes you have to make deals with people that you don't normally have to make deals with. So I made a deal with Pat Schroeder; I said 'Pat, ah y'know, I'm gonna continue to fi-, y'know, we're gonna ah have this program, and if you don't move to eliminate the funding, I won't move to increase it.' Ah, and I'm not too sure we had the votes to increase it, and I was afraid she had the votes to cut it, so we were able to refund it again at around 7 million dollars. Just to give you an idea, we spend well over a hundred million dollars on Title 10, and less than, and less than 8 million dollars on Title 20 -- the Adolescent Family Life Program is what it's called -- [Interviewer interjects "Yes"] and ah, and two-thirds of that money by the way goes to help mothers who have children, ah y'know, particularly teenage Moms who have children who need support services. So what we're doing is y'know just exactly what the, what the, um, ah, the pro-choice people say that we don't do which is ah willing to put up money to help support families who make that tough decision, and ah that's what the Title 20 money was for. That's what she cut out in addition to the other money for abstinence-based education, and believe it or not that program had fu-, had support from such folks as Eunice Kennedy Shriver, ah who [Interviewer: "Yes"] was one of the big supporters and, and one of the big grantees under that program, who ah who was out there working on abstinence education."

Interviewer points out that since '70 or '73, the federal government has spent about \$3 billion in condom distribution, sex ed, etc. "... and the question that the American public has to ask is 'what have we gotten for our money?'..."

RS: "Absolutely. It's amazing, because I've testified before at

the time, it was the Children, Youth, and Families Committee, and ah Pat Schroeder was the Chairman. I was on that Committee, and ah y'know, she issued some report, ah, oh about a year and a half ago that sh-, that, that quoted her mind determined that abstinence education is a failure, that it never worked, and the fact of the matter is we have evidence after evidence that if you have abstinence education targeted at adolescents, and, and, and folks who are y'know, it, it just getting into that, that sexually active period of time, it is an incredibly effective program, and it is in fact the right approach that, that more and more teens are beginning to embrace as really the way to ah ah to solve the problem not only of unwanted pregnancies in this country, but sexually transmitted disease, AIDS, and a whole host of other problems that, that go along with it."

Interviewer praises RS for this stance, then brings up issue of riverboat gambling.

RS: "Everybody's looking for a quick, easy way out, and I, I, I am not a supporter of riverboat gambling. Hav-, y'know having said that, ah y'know, Philadelphia is free to do what Philadelphia wants to do. I'm not for federal, y'know, any kind of federal laws that ah, ah that have anything to do with that, but I, I am--. They're talking about the same thing, ah Bill, out here in Pittsburgh, and, and I've been very public in my feeling that that, I think what that does is ah, ah, really prey on people who ah, ah y'know, shouldn't, shouldn't be in there gambling in the first place, number 1, and number 2, I, I think it brings an element to the city that is not exactly a positive element."

Interviewer asks rhetorical question if Philadelphia needs any more organized crime.

RS interrupts: "I think what, I think what we need is a responsible fiscal policy. We wouldn't have to be looking for other sources of revenue if, if what we do is ah get that city of Philadelphia in shape, and get the state of Pennsylvania in shape, and, and give the taxpayers a break, and start running government efficiently, and start cutting some of the waste. I mean, I, I'm very proud of the fact that, as I mentioned, that I've introduced more bills to cut the budget than any other Member of Congress. It isn't hard, just ah, just look at where the money is, y'know, just look and set priorities. There are programs there I would cut that may in fact be worthwhile programs. So there's a lot of things that ah your family and ah the, your listeners' families would love to be able to spend money on, but if you don't have the money, you have to wait until next year or s-, or put that expenditure off. That's what we have to do in government, and ah that's the message I'm trying to carry."

Interviewer brings up voter apathy. "... does it really make a difference whether I go down to my polling place or not t-, to vote for ah Congressman Rick Santorum to ah take over the Senate seat that Harris Wofford ah resides in right now?"

RS: "Well, I mean, ah obviously, the answer to that is ah a resounding yes. I think we have a great opportunity in the state of Pennsylvania to ah, to really make an impact on the national level. This will probably be the highest visibility Senate race in the country. Not only will, is Harris Wofford considered the ah, ah, y'know the poster child for the Clinton Administration, having won in 1991 just before the presidential election, ah but his political adviser, Jim Carville, James Carville, will be the same political adviser who runs the political operation out of the White House. Ah, the President will be in here, all the Cabinet people will be in here. This will be a very big race, a referendum election on the Clinton presidency. Ah, you wanna send a message, you wanna make an impact, in not only sending who believes very differently than Harris Wofford to go down and vote and represent your interest, but also to send ah send a very clear message of ah, ah of rejection of the Clinton ah, Clinton ah, agenda, this is the race to do it, so ah, if ah, and I can tell you every vote will matter. Ah, I, y'know I ran my, I won my first race, it was a close one. I was outspent 3 to 1, and I won it by less than, less than a percentage point, ah because we went out, and we hustled, and we got people, and we had a lot of grassroots volunteers who went out and worked real hard, and that was the difference. We turned out ah 20 percent more Republican vote than Democratic vote, and that's why we won, because we went out and got people out to vote who probably didn't think it mattered, who were probably more shocked than anybody that, that I won, but everybody did their part, and that's what's ah, that's what makes ah success in politics -- everybody doing their part."

Interviewer asks about family issues, complaining about homosexuals in the government, subverting the interest of the American family: "... do families really matter to the people down in Washington, DC, or are they just being held hostage ah to the people of the alternative lifestyles, those people that have a high disposable income, that could donate ah 10 or 20 thousand dollars to someone's campaign?"

RS: "Well they matter if they, if they, if they mobilize and they're heard. I mean, that's ah, y'know politics is the, is the old squeaky wheel, and that is, y'know i-, y-, the, the old silent majority is actually out there, and they're, and they're exa-, exactly the people you talk about, the folks who are, who are too busy, ah and, and what you have to do is recognize that y'know when you get up in the morning, you look in the mirror, you're looking at the person who really bears the moral responsibility for the future of that country, so your children can be safe and prosperous and free, and unless you take that responsibility seriously, you have no one to blame for the Roberta Achtenberge being in the, be-, being in the White House than ah, than, than yourselves. You've got, you've gotta take that responsibility seriously, and ah the work you do, if it's just means going out to vote, if it means passing the word onto friends and neighbors about what you've heard on this program, the work that you do is every bit as important as ah, as the guy

who stood in front of the tank at Tianemenn Square when it comes to the future of our soci-, civilization in this country, and ah and I don't know if I can say it any more strongly than that. It matters. It counts. You can make a difference, but you gotta get up and be heard."

Interviewer asks RS about what issues he differs with HW on.
RS: "Well, I mean ah, it, it almost, you'd need a, you'd need a, a long show just to go down the laundry list. One of the, one of the nice things about this race, ah as reported by a couple of the local papers here in Pittsburgh, ah who editorialized after I announced is that unlike a lot of elections in Pennsylvania where you have a choice between Tweedledum and Tweedledee, you've got real choices here. On health care it really comes back to the fundamental issue: do you believe we solve problems in this country by giving the government more power, more responsibility, more decision-making, more resources, ah fro-, taken from you so they can tell you what's best for you, or do you believe that the answer to the problem of health care reform is to give, is to let you keep more of your own money, ah make more of your decisions, and create a, a y'know create a level playing field where you have the right incentives to go out and be a good consumer of health care? That's what I believe the answer is. That's what our solution supplies, and it keeps choices, it keeps decisions, it keeps money with you, not Washington, who's who thinks they know better than you. And the same really comes down whether it's a Clinton tax package, or deficit reduction package, or welfare reform, which we're very involved in. Y'know, Wofford believes in the government's ability to do good for you, and the more government we have in our lives the better off you will be, and I just believe-, I trust you, not a bunch of bureaucrats who get paid to, to work 9 to 5, and who don't care whether your little daughter gets her, her, her treatment ah at the hospital, and don't care if ah, if that person who's on welfare finds a job and gets back to work, they get paid no matter what. That's the real difference between the two of us."

Overview: Nothing earth-shattering in this interview. I think his diatribe about Title 10 is interesting, and worth checking into. Also, by implication, he attacks homosexuals, although no usable statements. All in all, he managed to make rather moderate statements, while using a very conservative theme/undertone to appeal to his audience.

The sections in bold are sections that I think are worth looking at, either to use as quotes or to check into the truth of his claims/statistics.